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A METHOD FOR IMPROVING MULTIPATH SEARCHER SPEED**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5 A multipath signal searcher (204) used in CDMA wireless communication systems is provided. Search paths (214) of the multipath signal searcher are grouped together and assigned by an offset assignment/timing block (210) to search a time offset within a search window. The search paths may be operated in serial or parallel operation mode. In either mode, the search paths are individually assigned to search
10 over one of a group of time offsets that are distributed across the search window evenly. In parallel mode, the search paths are not only grouped to search only a given set of time offsets within the search window, but different groups of search paths are offset to commence searching at different times than other groups of search paths to more quickly update a finger manager and more quickly retrieve the mobile
15 communication signal.